

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 09751 071408Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 CA-01 SSO-00 /030 W
-----120839 071410Z /53

O 071325Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9908

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9751

FOR AF/W AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC SHUM NI
SUBJECT: RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR RAY BAKER

REF/ STATE 196955

1. FABUNMI TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT THE KEY OFFICIAL WHOSE RETURN IS AWAITED IS EXPECTED BACK IN LAGOS SOME TIME DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF AUGUST. HE ADDED THAT THE LEAVE HAS BEEN A LENGHTY ONE BECAUSE THIS OFFICIAL HAS ALREADY BEEN RECALLED FROM HIS LEAVE THREE TIMES AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE FOR EMERGENCY CONSULTATIONS. THE CABINET OFFICE PEOPLE WHO DEAL WITH THIS OFFICIAL -- FABUNMI SAID HE DOES NOT DO SO -- HAVE THOUGHT IT PRUDENT NOT TO RAISE THE BAKER CASE WITH THIS OFFICIAL DURING THESE BRIEF PERIODS OF RECALL BECAUSE HE WAS LESS LIKELY TO BE "IN A GOOD MOOD."

2. ALL OF THIS IS EXASPERATING AND BIZARRE, BUT VERY LIKELY TRUE IN MY OPINION. I SEE NO BETTER COURSE OF ACTION THEN TO STAY CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH FABUNMI FROM AUGUST 16 ON. IF REPEAT IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SEEM FAVORABLE, I WILL MENTION THE CASE TO THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HOWEVER, WHEN I PAY A COURTSEY CALL ON HIM ON TUESDAY MORNING,
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AUGUST 8.

3. FABUNMI SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON INDICATING THAT BAKER WOULD NOT MAKE USE OF HIS VISA UNTIL HIS CASE HAD BEEN RESOLVED. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAS PASSED THIS ON TO THE CABINET OFFICE AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF

MAINTAINING THE PRESSURE.

WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: CASC, SHUM, NI, (BAKER, RAY)
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